

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 05458 292246Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 292220Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7303
INFO WHITE HOUSE NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 5458

EXDIS

FOR WHITE HOUSE - PHIL WISE

FOR WHITE HOUSE ADVANCE OFFICE

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: OTRA, PDIP, PN, PPDC, GT
SUBJ: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR PANAMA CANAL TREATIES

REF: STATE 205717

1. I DELIVERED PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AT 11:30 AM TODAY, NOTING THAT I HAD ALSO RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE DEPARTMENT, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEDMAN, TO URGE PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION TO COME TO WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS HONORED TO ACCEPT INVITATION BUT ASKED ME TO TELL PRESIDENT CARTER THAT THE ONLY REASON HE WAS DOING SO WAS BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL INVITATION AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH HIM. (AS I SURMISED WHEN HE SAID THIS AND AS HE CONFIRMED LATER IN THE CONVERSATION, WHAT PRESIDENT LAUGERUD MEANT WAS THAT HE HAS A PROBLEM IN DEALING WITH TORRIJOS IN VIEW OF BAD STATE OF RELATIONS WITH PANAMA.) I ALSO MADE POINTS TO HIM AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL ABOUT SIZE OF DELEGATION, STATE DINNER, AND PLANS FOR SEPARATE EVENT FOR WIVES.

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2. PRESIDENT NOTED THAT MEDICAL TESTS ARE STILL BEING MADE IN HOUSTON ON MRS. LAUGERUD AND THAT IT WILL BE AT LEAST SEPTEMBER 1 BEFORE HE KNOWS WHEN SHE WILL BE ABLE TO RESUME NORMAL ACTIVITY. WE WILL ADVISE WHEN WE KNOW MORE ABOUT HER ATTENDANCE, BUT JUDGING FROM TENOR OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS IT SEEMS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL THAT SHE

WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND. PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD PLAN TO STOP IN HOUSTON ON WAY BACK TO GUATEMALA TO SPEND A FEW HOURS WITH MRS. LAUGERUD.

3. PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD ASK CONGRESS TOMORROW FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. HE SAID HE WOULD FLY TO WASHINGTON ON PANAMERICAN FLIGHT TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 (PA 542 ARRIVING 1630 WASHINGTON). AS HE WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 8 TO RETURN TO GUATEMALA FOR PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT OF KING OF SPAIN, HE WOULD NEED TO HAVE HIS BILATERAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ON SEPTEMBER 6 OR 7, AND HE NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO GO DIRECTLY FROM THE AIRPORT TO SUCH A MEETING IF THIS WERE DESIRABLE.

4. WITH RESPECT TO SUBJECTS THAT HE WOULD PLAN TO RAISE, HE MENTIONED THE BELIZE DISPUTE AS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO HIM, NOTING THAT HE WOULD BRING MAPS WITH HIM TO SHOW PRESIDENT EXACTLY WHAT EACH SIDE WAS PROPOSING, AND SAID HE WOULD ALSO RAISE THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION WHICH HE HAD JUST SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE AS PART OF RATIFICATION PROCESS.

5. PRESIDENT INQUIRED ABOUT DRESS FOR THE VISIT, MENTIONING THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO WEAR CIVILIAN CLOTHES TO THE CEREMONY. HE ASKED TO BE ADVISED WHAT THE DRESS WOULD BE FOR THE STATE DINNER.

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6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE TIME OF PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. ALSO ADVISE ON MATTERS OF DRESS.
BOSTER

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NNN

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